

## Message Text

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22

ORIGIN SS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /006 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:AOTTO

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P 301048Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT PRIORITY

USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104161 TOSEC 110409

FOLLOWING PEKING 776 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO HONG KONG  
TOKYO MOSCOW CINCPAC FOR POLAD APRIL 30; REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 776

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CH

SUBJECT: EXPLOSION AT SOVIET EMBASSY PEKING

1. AN EXPLOSION OF UNEXPLAINED ORIGIN OCCURRED AT THE GUARD  
HOUSE OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN PEKING AT 1400 HRS. PEKING  
TIME APRIL 29. TASS REPORTED THAT TWO CHINESE PLA GUARDS  
WERE KILLED BY THE BLAST, THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SOVIET  
INJURIES, AND THAT A PROTEST HAD BEEN MADE TO THE CHINESE.  
SOVIETS HERE DID NOT REVEAL THE INCIDENT UNTIL AFTER THE TASS  
ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT NEWSMEN WHO VISITED THE SCENE EARLY  
THIS MORNING REPORTED THAT THE DOOR OF THE GUARD HOUSE HAD  
BEEN BLOWN FROM ITS HINGES AND GLASS LITTERED ON THE GROUND.  
THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS OF THE CAUSE OF THE BLAST.

2. THE PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SPOKESMAN HAS SAID ONLY THAT  
THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION IS UNDER INVESTIGATION. HE WOULD  
NOT EVEN CONFIRM THAT TWO PLA GUARDS HAD BEEN KILLED. SOVIETS  
HERE ARE ALSO GENERALLY REFUSING TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT.

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HOWEVER, A DIPLOMAT FROM ONE NEUTRAL COUNTRY WAS TOLD THIS

MORNING BY SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR THAT THEY MUST WAIT FOR THE INVESTIGATION BY THE AUTHORITIES. HE DID NOT PLACE BLAME FOR THE INCIDENT ON ANYONE.

3. THERE IS TODAY A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PLA GUARDS STATIONED AROUND SOVIET BLOC EMBASSIES. USLO'S CONTINGENT HAS NOT BEEN INCREASED.

4. CURRENT THEORIES IN PEKING ON CAUSE OF BLAST RANGE FROM BOMBING BY ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES IN PRC TO ACCIDENT CAUSED BY GAS LINE

OR CARELESS HANDLING OF MUNITIONS IN GUARD HOUSE. MODERATE INCREASE IN SECURITY MEASURES AROUND BLOC EMBASSY COMPOUNDS SUGGEST CHINESE AUTHORITIES ARE CONCERNED EXPLOSION MIGHT NOT, REPEAT NOT BE ACCIDENTAL. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOTHING AT THIS TIME WHICH CONFIRMS AFP STORY JUST FILED THAT CHINESE HAVE ARRESTED SOMEONE IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT. THAYER UNQUOTE SISCO

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